

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE: January 22, 2002

TO: State/Federal Discussions Preparation

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Lester Snow Mike Spear Jim Lecky Mike Boots Tom Hagler Alf Brandt

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FROM:

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No. Pages (incl. cover sheet):

Message: Attached is an agenda and documents for the State/Federal Discussions on 4/26/00.

cc: David Cottingham



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Message: Attached is the agenda, the program area papers boiled down to just the actions, and CALFED Game 4 Conclusions and Discussion. Today's meetings are scheduled for 10-12, (916) 657-4111, and 3-5, (916) 574-2556. Both meetings will be held in room 1131.

cc: Kathy Kelly

David Cottingham

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

DATE:

April 20, 2000

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Message: This is to confirm the 3 times, dates, and conference call in numbers for the State/Federal Discussion Prep meetings for today and tomorrow:

Thursday 4/20/00, 12:00 - 2:00 Room 1131 (916) 574-2556

Friday, 4/21/00, 10:00 - 12:00 Room 1131 (916) 657-4111

Friday, 4/21/00, 3:00 - 5:00 Room 1131 (916) 574-2556 cc: David Cottingham

Ecosystem Restoration Issue Summary

Draft 4/13/00

The Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) is the principal component of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program designed to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem. The approach of the ERP is to restore or mimic ecological processes and to increase and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats to support stable, self-sustaining populations of diverse and valuable species. The ERP will also help fulfill the mission of improving water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. Current protections for endangered and threatened fish species require that exports of Bay-Delta water be reduced or curtailed when they pose a risk to the species. By helping to recover currently endangered and threatened species and by maintaining populations of non-listed species, the ERP can help ease current diversion restrictions and preclude more stringent export restrictions in the future, thereby improving the reliability of Bay-Delta water supplies.

The ERP identifies over 600 programmatic actions that, after being refined and prioritized, will be implemented throughout the Bay-Delta ecosystem and near-shore ocean environment over the 30 or more year implementation period of the Program. The ERP includes a Strategic Plan which provides the conceptual framework and process that will guide the refinement, evaluation, prioritization, implementation, monitoring, and revision of ERP actions.

Two major components of the ERP were identified as key decision items in the Regional Approach to California Water Management.

√ Establish a long-term decision making structure to ensure the adaptive management of the ERP based on the best available science and to ensure the continued agency and public support of the restoration program.

Discussion:

Ecosystem actions throughout California need to be comprehensively integrated and collaboratively implemented. CALFED agencies and stakeholders have been working to develop the concept of "One Blueprint" for ecosystem restoration. One blueprint for ecosystem restoration will allow operational, regulatory and conservation measures to be implemented consistent with a single set of goals and objectives and ensure immediate protection of at-risk species and long-term recovery of ecological processes, species and habitats. The concept of one blueprint is a process, not a plan. Because restoring the environment requires long-term investments, the blueprint must be a dynamic process rather than a static plan, that can adapt to increased knowledge and changes in environmental conditions.

In addition to having a single blueprint, restoring and managing the Bay-Delta ecosystem requires a flexible management framework that can generate, incorporate, and respond to new information and changing Bay-Delta conditions. Adaptive management provides such flexibility and opportunities for enhancing understanding of the ecosystem. Within

an adaptive management framework, natural systems are managed in such a way as to ensure their recovery and/or improvement while simultaneously increasing the understanding of how they function. All ecosystem restoration actions are treated as experiments so that information generated by ecosystem restoration projects can be used to inform future decision making. In this manner, future management actions can be revised or refined in light of information generated from previous restoration and management actions.

Recommendation:

Direct CALFED to adopt a management framework for the ERP that integrates science and management, that makes effective use of adaptive management and incorporates the concept of one blueprint for ecosystem restoration.

√ Institute a broad monitoring and assessment program to evaluate the effectiveness of the ERP, as well as to provide critical information for real-time project operation through the Operations Group and Water Operations Management Team.

Discussion:

Within an adaptive management framework the key to successful ecosystem restoration is learning from all restoration and management actions. To facilitate learning, adaptive management emphasizes the use of the scientific method to maximize the information value of restoration and management actions. Resource managers explicitly state hypotheses about ecosystem structure and function based upon the best available information, and then they design restoration actions to test these hypotheses. In this respect, adaptive management treats all restoration actions as experiments.

Establishment of a CALFED Science Program (formerly known as CMARP) will provide comprehensive and integrated scientific support that will ensure credible scientific information will be available to guide implementation of the CALFED Program including regulatory decisions, adaptive management and water project operations. This scientific program which includes monitoring, research, assessment and reporting, will contribute to the reduction of scientific uncertainty in the CALFED solution area and will provide a basis for evaluating CALFED Program accomplishments.

Recommendation:

Direct CALFED to commence the monitoring program.